

Ocean Margin Drilling

May 1980

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OCEAN
MARGIN
DRILLING

A TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

MAY 1980



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PREFACE

This Technical Memorandum was prepared in response to a request from the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member of the HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The Committee requested that OTA conduct an evaluation of the Ocean Margin Drilling Program, a major new public-private cooperative research effort in marine geology proposed by the National Science Foundation. They were particularly interested in the scientific merits of the program and whether other, less costly alternatives could yield the same or greater scientific return.

Because OTA already had a more general ongoing study of ocean research technology, the agency was able to respond quickly to this request. The Memorandum was prepared with the advice and assistance of a small panel of scientists plus a much broader group of scientists, engineers, petroleum company representatives, and others who submitted material for our use and reviewed our draft report. The study discusses the scientific merit of the program, possible alternatives to the present program plan, problems associated with technology development, aspects of petroleum company participation in the program, and government management considerations. There are also appendices including specific alternatives proposed by the OTA panel members and historical factors leading to the present plans.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John H. Gibbons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

JOHN H. GIBBONS

Director

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